

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7575

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 01418

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO US

REF: STATE 020392

1. WE SAW PM ZAID RIFAI IN COMPANY WITH AMBASSADOR TO UK NOWAR MORNING JANUARY 31, AND CONVEYED TO HIM DIRECTLY PRESIDENT NIXON'S REGRET AT INABILITY TO HOST SOCIAL FUNCTION FOR HIS MAJESTY THIS YEAR DUE TO VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE. WE ADDED PRESIDENT'S FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP AND DEEP RESPECT FOR HIS MAJESTY, AND PLEASURE WITH WHICH HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING HIM AGAIN.

2. RIFAI CONFIRMED PLAN TO ARRIVE EVENING FEBRUARY 7. HE UNDERSTANDS APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT IS AT 11:00 A.M. FEBRUARY 8, FOLLOWED BY VICE PRESIDENT AT 1:00 P.M., SECRETARY AT 4:00 P.M., AND DINNER HOSTED BY SECRETARY THAT EVENING.

3. KING PLANS TO SEE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON 9TH.

4. RIFAI WAS NOT CLEAR ON KING'S PLANS TO HOST RETURN DINNER. THEY WILL GET BACK TO US AFTER CHECKING WITH CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL.

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5. RIFAI SAID KING UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM OF CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS. HE WOULD NEVERTHELESS ENJOY MEETING ANY LEADERS (RIFAI SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FULBRIGHT AND

HAMILTON) WHO MIGHT BE IN TOWN, ONCE KING HAS MADE HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT. KING WOULD BE HAPPY RECEIVE THEM OR CALL ON THEM IN THEIR OFFICES. PARTY WILL APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT ALONG THAT LINE.

6. RIFAI TOLD US KING AND GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORTUNATE THIS YEAR IN BEING ABLE TO PUT JORDAN'S NEEDS DIRECTLY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PARTY DURING STOPOVER IN AQABA. THEY HOPE FOR REPLIES TO THEIR QUESTIONS DIRECTLY THIS TIME RATHER THAN GOING THROUGH ALL THE PRELIMINARIES OF THE PAST.

7. RIFAI TOLD US HE PLANNED TO HAVE DR. KHARIL SALEM, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, TALK SEPARATELY WITH USG OFFICIALS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS DURING VISIT.

8. IN ADDITION TO PRINCE MOHAMMED (WHO WILL BE ON SCHEDULE OF HIS OWN, NOT NECESSARILY ACCOMPANYING KING) AND RIFAI, PARTY WILL INCLUDE KHAMMASH, SALEM, MR. YANAL HIKMAT, CHIEF OF ROYAL PROTOCOL, BRIGADIER SAMIR FARRAJ, THE PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, MAJOR ZAZA, AND MAJOR KASSAB. PARTY WILL HAVE MAXIMUM OF 8 SECURITY OFFICERS (3 OF THEM WITH PRINCE MOHAMMED) APART FROM KASSAB.

9. KING IS PLANNING TO SPEND ABOUT A WEEK IN PALM BEACH WITH HIS SONS AND VISITING FRIENDS AFTER WALTER REED CHECK-UP. HE IS PLANNING GO FOR CHECK-UP ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10.

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